

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

APRIL 23, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St. NW, Room 814  
Washington, D.C. 20054

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MAY 2 1997  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

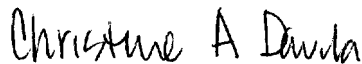
I am writing in strong support of the meaningful discounts for schools and libraries as envisioned by the Federal-State Joint Board in their Recommended Rules published last November. In particular, I support the recommendation made by EdLiNC, a Washington-based coalition of educational and library organizations.

The Recommended Rules ensure that all children, whether in public or non-public schools, would have access to on-line resources that are critical to live, learn and work in our modern society.

Congress passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996 with the clear intent of insuring that Schools and Libraries would be able to access the latest technology. By allowing telecommunication and non-telecommunication carriers to compete for the discounts, the Joint Board has also recognized the need for diverse technologies to serve the diverse urban and rural areas of the State.

We urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,



Christine A. Davila

1830 Nogales Street  
P.O. Box 8490  
Rowland Heights  
CA 91748

(818) 965-2541  
(Fax) 854-8302

**Office of the Superintendent**

April 22, 1997



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**Governing Board**

Jerre Davenport  
Peter H. Lamphere  
Mary Jo Maxwell  
Paul E. Walters  
Melody Yu

Dr. Ronald J. Leon,  
Superintendent

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW, Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Honorable Hundt:

On behalf of the Rowland Unified School District, in Los Angeles County, California, I urge you to support the proposed "e-rate" for our schools.

Affordable access to the Information Superhighway is one important educational tool needed to prepare California students for the job market of the next century.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will bring technology/telecommunication access into the classroom. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital.

Rowland Unified is committed to bringing the world into our classrooms and extending student learning experiences beyond the confines of the school. Deep discounts for telecommunication services will enable this effort to move forward in 1997 and future years.

I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools, and thank you for your support of our future citizens.

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Leon, Ed.D.

RJL:ac

c: Board of Education

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Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, DC

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96-45

**From:** <msoucheray@mhhp.com>  
**To:** A7.A7(rchong)  
**Date:** 5/2/97 5:00pm  
**Subject:** Universal Service Policy

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MAY 2 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

From: Melenie Soucheray  
Director, Community Based Health Reform  
Minnesota Hospital and Healthcare Partnership  
(612) 641-1121  
msoucheray@mhhp.com

Good afternoon, Commissioner Chong...

It has come to our attention that you are considering a variety of issues as you prepare to vote Wednesday on telecommunications regulations affecting telemedicine. The Minnesota Hospital and Healthcare Partnership and our members, 143 hospitals and 23 health systems, encourage you to support the regulations related to universal service that would eliminate distance charges and provide toll-free connections to the Internet for rural health care providers.

Under the aegis of our Small, Rural Hospital Committee, the Minnesota Hospital and Healthcare Partnership is now forming a task force to identify and explore telecommunications options available to our members and their communities. The group will also work over the next six months to make recommendations for effective collaboration in and among communities wishing to obtain access to the telecommunications network in Minnesota. It is no surprise to you that interest in the use of telecommunications technologies for a variety of applications, including telemedicine, public education, data transfer, public safety and community and economic development, is burgeoning in rural and urban America. Often, the economics of building, using and maintaining the telecommunications infrastructure prohibit the growth of this technology in our rural communities. Your support of the provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, particularly those relating to universal service, will facilitate the development of telecommunications and "telehealth" that will benefit rural American communities.

Thank you for your continued service in this important area. Please feel free to call either John Kingrey, MHHP Senior Vice President, or me, (612) 641-1121, if you have any questions.

MAS



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## GLENDORA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

500 North Loraine Avenue, Glendora, CA 91741 • (818) 963-1611 • FAX (818) 335-2196

April 22, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW. Room 814  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:


I am writing to you in regards to the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am a locally elected school board member from Glendora Unified School District, and I would like to express my strong support for this program and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have access to the Internet and the ability to provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of schools across the country, and more importantly, the plan will bring telecommunications services directly to the classrooms, where they can have the greatest impact on students. It is important to remember that each element of this plan is vital to the overall success of the discount program. Therefore, the inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections should not be eliminated, nor should the size of the Universal Service Fund be reduced. As I am sure you are aware, this program is essential for preparing our students to enter the workforce of tomorrow.

The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately overdue and our students need these discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the other FCC commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations regarding the discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Doris Blum  
Board Member

/sg

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MAY 2 1997

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mary Lundstrom, President  
Everett Hughes, Vice President  
Doris Blum, Clerk  
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Patrick Bushman, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

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# SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS

EDUCATION CENTER • 4100 Normal Street, San Diego, CA 92103-2682 •

(619) 293-8418  
Fax: (619) 291-7182

**BERTHA O. PENDLETON**  
Superintendent

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DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

April 22, 1997

Mr. Reed Hundt  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Dear Chairman Hunt:

The San Diego Unified School District strongly supports the Joint Federal-State Universal Service Board recommendation to establish an educational rate (e-rate) for public schools and libraries for the purpose of wiring and connecting to the Internet.

This district has already applied and have received a California Public Utilities Commission discount rate provided for data and voice lines for state public schools, a slightly more than 50 percent savings over regular rates. Not only does this allow more schools to be wired and connected to the Internet, but it also frees up general education dollars to be directed back to the classroom that would otherwise be spent on utility bills.

At this time all of our 160 schools and sites are connected to a Wide Area Network and have access to the Internet. We are working toward wiring and equipping all classrooms. As a large urban school user, we will only be able to provide Internet access in all classrooms through the availability of further utility discounts. As you probably know, there is no ongoing funding from the state, federal, and local governments for education technology. School districts that make education technology a high priority, as does this district, must scramble to put together special grants and one-time funds, in addition to sacrificing general education dollars, to attempt to provide equal access for all students. The e-rate will go a long way towards making equity possible and we strongly support its implementation as recommended by the Joint Federal-State Universal Service Board.

We would appreciate your vote of support when the issue comes before you next month.  
Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Bertha O. Pendleton*

Bertha O. Pendleton  
Superintendent

BOP:bb

S/FCC/e-rate/4.97

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Lebanon School District  
Instructional Media Department  
1000 South Eighth Street  
Lebanon, PA 17042

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MAY 2 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED April 21, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt,

I am a Technology Coordinator from Lebanon School District in Lebanon, Pennsylvania and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our district has a five-year Technology Plan that identifies the need for internal voice, data and video networks for our seven buildings and upgrading for a wide area network for connectivity within and outside our district. Internet and other distance-learning access to all classrooms, libraries, and offices is another identified need. We need the discount plan to help us provide the solutions to these needs.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Pamela Wentling

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Von Sydow and Associates  
308 Surrey Drive  
Bonita, CA 91902

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4/28/97

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MAY 2 1997

Dear Chairman Hundt

Please provide discounts to our educational institutions. We need to remain a world leader in Public education and you can help with your support.

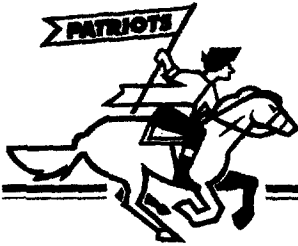
Sincerely

Von Von Sydow

cc: Docket # 96-45

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# Washington Colony School District

130 East Lincoln Avenue • Fresno, California 93706  
209/ 233-0706 • FAX 209/ 233-9583

April 18, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

The Honorable Reed Hundt  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 2 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

I am writing to you in regards to the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am a locally elected school board member from Washington Colony Elementary School District, and I would like to express my strong support for this program and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have access to the Internet and the ability to provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of schools across the country, and more importantly, the plan will bring telecommunications services directly to the classrooms, where they can have the greatest impact on students. It is important to remember that each element of this plan is vital to the overall success of the discount program. Therefore, the inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections should not be eliminated, nor should the size of the Universal Service Fund be reduced. As I am sure you are aware, this program is essential for preparing our students to enter the workforce of tomorrow.

The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately overdue and our students need these discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the other FCC commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations regarding the discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

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*Interlochen Center for the Arts*

EX-104 OR LATE FILED

April 25, 1997



The Honorable Reed Hundt  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
Room 814  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

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MAY 2 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Thank you for helping ensure that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

We are excited that the Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have an opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion annually will address the needs of all our schools, and the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts and Internet Service Provider costs is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Over 70% of our students receive financial assistance to attend our school. They need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,

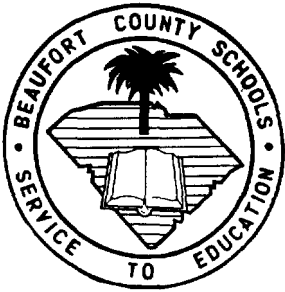
*Richard F. Odell*

Richard F. Odell  
President

RFO/lm

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**BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Post Office Drawer 309  
Beaufort, South Carolina 29901-0309  
(803) 525-4200  
FAX (803) 525-4324

CC 96-45

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Chairman  
LAURA BUSH

Vice Chairman  
CHARLES KRESCH

Secretary  
DALE FRIEDMAN

Board Members  
Earl Campbell  
Rick Caporale  
Joseph Floyd  
York L. Glover  
Reuben Greene  
Susan Jancourtz  
Ronald Speaks  
Bonnie Smith

Superintendent  
HERMAN K. GAITHER

April 24, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt  
Chairman  
Federal Communication Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: The Telecommunications Act of 1996

Dear Chairman Hundt:

As chairman of the Beaufort County Board of Education, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your dedication toward ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 for schools and libraries, provides substantial discounts for even the poorest schools allowing them the opportunity to connect to the Internet, more importantly the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn.

Our schools need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I therefore urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,

Laura Bush, Chairman  
Beaufort County Board Of Education

LB/ljw

MAY 2 1997

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April 16, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW, Room 814  
Washington, DC 20554

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MAY 2 1997

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write in strong support of affordable and meaningful discounts for all schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The passage of the Telecommunications Act last year mandates the development of a rate for education or an "e-rate" to secure affordable rates reflecting the financial capability of this community.

Integrating technology into the curriculum requires advanced telecommunications services and access for all classrooms - not just those classrooms in the public sector. National education surveys indicate that Catholic school classroom access to computers and connectivity is at least 50% behind that of its public school counterparts. I know for a fact that this percent is high when compared to many of our local urban Catholic schools.

In addition to the technology plan for my school being in place, the majority of Catholic schools in the greater Toledo area also have their technology plan ready to go, while the remainder of schools are currently finalizing their plan. We are however significantly disadvantaged and hindered in trying to implement our plans, because Catholic schools are excluded from most local and state funded initiatives for purchase of technology hardware. This reality compounded with the simple fact that without discounts on internal wiring and Internet access, these services may not be affordable to many schools.

I ask you to ensure that telecommunications companies provide services to schools and libraries at significantly discounted rates. I also strongly urge you to act upon this historic opportunity to bring the world of information to every school child and life long learner in America.

Sincerely,

*Anne Klausung*

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## NANUET PUBLIC SCHOOLS

101 Church Street • Nanuet, NY 10954

Every Child A Winner!

MARK S. MCNEILL, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of SchoolsPHILIP M. SIONS  
School Business Administrator  
Phone: (914) 627-9881  
Fax: (914) 623-1963

May 2, 1997

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COMMISSIONER  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

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Susan Ness, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am the Superintendent of schools for the Nanuet Union Free School District. On behalf of the residents of Nanuet, the Board of Education and the entire school community, I would like to express our appreciation of your efforts to insure that school districts such as Nanuet will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

Implementation of the discount plan contained in the Telecommunications Act and promoted by the federal-State Joint board will guarantee that all schools - regardless of their financial condition - will be afforded the opportunity for Internet accessibility and distance-learning capabilities.

Our district needs substantial discounts for our telecommunications services in the upcoming 1997-98 school year. I strongly urge the FCC to support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Mark S. McNeill  
Superintendent of Schools

MSM:cap

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 16, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW, Room 814  
Washington, DC 20554

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write in strong support of affordable and meaningful discounts for all schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The passage of the Telecommunications Act last year mandates the development of a rate for education or an "e-rate" to secure affordable rates reflecting the financial capability of this community.

Integrating technology into the curriculum requires advanced telecommunications services and access for all classrooms - not just those classrooms in the public sector. National education surveys indicate that Catholic school classroom access to computers and connectivity is at least 50% behind that of its public school counterparts. I know for a fact that this percent is high when compared to many of our local urban Catholic schools.

In addition to the technology plan for my school being in place, the majority of Catholic schools in the greater Toledo area also have their technology plan ready to go, while the remainder of schools are currently finalizing their plan. We are however significantly disadvantaged and hindered in trying to implement our plans, because Catholic schools are excluded from most local and state funded initiatives for purchase of technology hardware. This reality compounded with the simple fact that without discounts on internal wiring and Internet access, these services may not be affordable to many schools.

I ask you to ensure that telecommunications companies provide services to schools and libraries at significantly discounted rates. I also strongly urge you to act upon this historic opportunity to bring the world of information to every school child and life long learner in America.

Sincerely,

*Peggy Kwitk-Vega*  
5034 Rombo  
Toledo, OH 43623

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April 28, 1997

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MAY 2 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 m St. NW, Room 814  
Washington, D.C. 20054

CC:Docket No. 96-45

Dear Mr. Hunt,

I am writing this letter to let you know I am in full support of the Joint Board's recommendations for providing discounted telecommunications services to schools and libraries. I teach in a small school with a very tight budget, but yet we have as many technology needs as the bigger schools have. The only difference is they have funds to support them and we don't. We need all the support and help from other sources we can get. This is why I am urging you to vote in favor of the board's recommendations. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Sandy Thares  
Kindergarten Teacher  
School District of Plum City  
621 Main St.  
Plum City, WI 54761

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CC 96-45  
April 29, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Deot Reed -

It seems a very long time since your last clerk days in Baltimore. I have followed your career with great interest and proud approval of your endeavors. As a trustee of the Roland Park Country School, I write to urge the F.C.C. to adopt negotiations to enforce Universal Service provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 by providing discounts of 20-90% for private and public schools & libraries to purchase advanced telecommunications services. In order for students to be able to use the Internet in their classrooms, deep discounts must be available. I make the technology affordable for schools. With appreciation for your support and best wishes always.

Sincerely,

Blacks W. White

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MA. Reed Hunt - Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street N.W.  
Room 814  
Washington, D.C. 20554

MRS. HARRISON L. WINTER  
16 Roland Mews, Baltimore, MD 21210